

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan is to set a framework of policies and action steps to guide the programming, management, and development of the parks, recreation, and open space system in Raleigh. Included within this plan are recommendations for new park development, management, continued renovation of existing parks and facilities, preservation of open space and significant natural resources, and expansion of greenways. Also included are strategies to provide ample recreational experiences for all citizens, while adapting to trends, significant development opportunities, and Raleigh's growing population. These policies and actions will guide decision-makers to work towards providing parks and recreational experiences that would create a balanced system across the community, responding to the varied needs of its residents

From the time of Raleigh's founding, parks, recreation, and open space have played a central role in City life, and in the City's urban form. Through more than two centuries of growth, these green spaces have enriched the quality of life of Raleigh's citizens. The nature and uses of park lands have evolved to meet the needs of a growing community ~~needs~~. From the City's five original civic squares, to ~~today's~~today's athletic fields and nature preserves, green space remains a vital part of the City's infrastructure.

The City of Raleigh has now entered the 21st century as a vibrant community that serves as the nucleus for a growing region. In its current system, Raleigh has over ~~5,760~~6,100 acres of park land making up ~~221~~224 ~~parks~~ park properties and ~~more than 3,760~~nearly 4,000 acres of greenway property including ~~68~~117 miles of trails (see Map PR-1). As the City continues to develop at a rapid pace, it will need to provide for new parks and to conserve additional open spaces, special landscapes, and natural resource areas for its expanding population. With undeveloped land rapidly disappearing and environmental concerns on the rise, the people of Raleigh must become stewards of the land in order to ensure that future generations will have both recreational opportunities and healthy city parks and natural areas.

~~The purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan is to set a framework of policies and action steps to guide the programming, management, and development of the parks, recreation, and open space system in Raleigh over the coming two decades. Included within this plan are recommendations for new park development, management, continued renovation of existing parks and facilities, preservation of open space and significant natural resources, and expansion of greenways. Also included are strategies to provide ample recreational opportunities for all citizens, while adapting to recreational trends, significant development opportunities, and Raleigh's growing population. These policies and actions will guide decision-makers to work towards providing parks and recreational facilities that would create a balanced system across the community and that respond to the varied needs of its residents.~~

This Element addresses the following major issues:

- Maintaining and renovating existing ~~passive and active~~ parks and recreation facilities to meet current needs;
- Addressing the need for walkable, neighborhood parks in existing and newer parts of the City;

- Acquiring adequate land for future park development;
- Developing recreational facilities in close proximity to all residents, equitably distributed throughout the City;
- Enhancing access to and awareness of Raleigh's recreation and natural resource opportunities;
- Providing better interconnectivity between the parks, greenways, and open space system locally and regionally;
- Providing best practice management and stewardship of Raleigh's Raleigh's natural resources; and
- Integrating the parks and recreation system into a broader context of green infrastructure to maximize ecosystem conservation.

These issues impact not only this element of the Comprehensive Plan, but have larger impacts on the community's overall growth and development prospects. ~~Park amenities~~Parks and recreation facilities influence the economic prosperity and quality of neighborhoods, land use decisions, growth management efforts, and the health and livability of residents. Therefore, it is vital to realize that addressing these issues in an effective manner will dictate the wellness and welfare of future residents.

For a more in-depth analysis of the City's parks, recreation, and open space inventory and future needs assessment, see the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space chapter of the Community Inventory, the data and analysis companion volume of the Comprehensive Plan. In addition there are several other well-defined and up-to-date documents that offer the City excellent guidance on meeting future park and recreation needs. These include: ~~The~~City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan (~~2004~~2014); The Capital Area Greenway Planning and Design Guide (2014); The City of Raleigh Aquatic Study (2008); The Senior Center Study (2007); and many other documents that are available for public review through the ~~City's~~City's web site. Additional information can be found on the Park and Greenway Planning and Development website.

This element does not ~~repeal or~~ replace adopted Parks planning documents; rather, it provides a forum for coordinating park and open space policies across multiple City departments. The policies and actions in this element are generally consistent with prior Parks plans, but where differences exist, this element provides more up to date guidance. Any Parks plans adopted or revised subsequent to the adoption of this element should be reflected, where appropriate, by future amendments to this element. ~~The 2004~~Adopted in May 2014, the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan; ~~including subsequent revisions, will be used as~~ is a detailed working supplement to the City of Raleigh 2030 Comprehensive Plan, ~~and~~ Expanding upon the vision of the Comprehensive Plan ~~serves to implement, the 2004 Parks~~System Plan is a long-range planning document that is meant to help shape

the direction, development and delivery of the city's parks, recreation and cultural resource facilities and services over the next 20 years.

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department's vision in the 2014 System Plan strives to integrate the parks, recreation and cultural resources system into the city's infrastructure, while also addressing evolving trends and changing needs of the community. The vision can be summarized in the following vision statement:

The City of Raleigh's vision for its parks, recreation and cultural resources system is 'bringing people to parks and parks to people.' It is a system that addresses the needs of all and fosters a community of creativity, engagement, healthy lifestyles, and welcoming neighborhoods. In addition to providing traditional, high quality parks, recreation and cultural facilities and programs, the city uses innovative initiatives to reach all residents, workers and visitors.

This element also addresses all six of the vision themes that serve as the overarching goals of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. High-quality parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces will provide added value and amenities to the community, which in turn will attract jobs, workers, and greater economic prosperity to the area. Evenly distributed park and recreation facilities, accessible to residents throughout the City, further promotes the goal of equity.

Consistent with the theme of Expanding Housing Choices, Raleigh needs to provide for a variety of housing types at a range of price points to meet the needs of its current and future residents. Parks, recreation and open space opportunities must be developed in tandem with new housing. The issue is particularly important for affordable housing, as many lower-income residents have reduced access to private vehicles, limiting their ability to travel to distant parks, and making pedestrian, bike, and transit access all the more critical.

The need for new parks and recreational facilities in the coming decades will require that substantial acreage be acquired by the City for park development. This is part of an overall strategy of Managing Our Growth. By planning and identifying future park areas, land can be acquired in advance of development, at lower cost and in appropriate locations, to develop the parks and recreational opportunities that the future residents will require. Further, parks are a significant land use and a source of travel demand, and their location, siting, and design should be coordinated with the City's transportation infrastructure to maximize access by multiple modes and to mitigate impacts on congestion, consistent with Coordinating Land Use and Transportation.

Sustainable design and green building is increasingly becoming a part of parks and recreation facilities design. Networks of interconnected parks, greenways, and open spaces (as part of a comprehensive green infrastructure system) can direct urban form and guide conservation efforts. Green infrastructure ensures that preserved open spaces and greenways provide greater environmental benefits by maximizing ecosystem conservation, promoting the theme of Greenprint Raleigh-

The ~~park~~parks and open spaces within Raleigh serve the daily leisure needs of the community, promote the social, cultural, mental, and physical well-being of the community, and ~~are~~provide important

~~amenities~~experiences to ~~achieving~~achieve better places to live. In a broader sense, they promote a more livable community, a higher quality of life and lend a sense of place and belonging to the community and its residents. They are fundamental to Growing Successful Neighborhoods and Communities.

~~Policies~~Policies and actions of this element appear below. Numbers indicate their relationship to the Vision Themes, as follows:

1. ~~1.~~ — Economic ~~Property~~Prosperity and Equity
2. ~~2.~~ — Expanding Housing Choices
3. ~~3.~~ — Managing Our Growth
4. ~~4.~~ — Coordinating Land Use and Transportation
5. ~~5.~~ — Greenprint Raleigh
6. ~~6.~~ — Growing Successful Neighborhoods and Communities

## ~~F~~8.1 Planning for Parks

Planning is fundamental to every step of the process by which new parks are created, starting with the determination of parks and recreation needs, to the identification and analysis of potential sites for acquisition, to the development of detailed park master plans for specific park sites. Accordingly, the City has developed a variety of park planning tools, methodologies, and processes; and has prepared many planning documents addressing both the entire Parks system as well as specific components. These include the ~~Raleigh~~ Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources System Plan, adopted in ~~2004~~2014 and incorporated into this ~~Element~~element by reference; as well as special plans addressing aquatic facilities, City cemeteries, senior centers, and other topics. Each of these documents has been the result of a thorough process of data collection, analysis, and civic engagement.

As public needs and priorities change, plans and the processes used to create them must also evolve to remain current. The ~~2004 Raleigh~~2014 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources System Plan contains a recommendation that it be updated every five years, and an update is recommended as Action PR 1.1. The Parks and Recreation Department has commissioned a study that recommends enhancements to the adopted Parks Master Planning Process, with City Council action on these recommendations expected in 2012. The City intends to keep all park-related planning documents fully current, in the same manner that the Comprehensive Plan and other planning documents will be continually reviewed and updated for currency and consistency.

### Policy PR 1.1

#### Plan Consistency

Maintain consistency among the Comprehensive Plan, the ~~Raleigh~~ Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan, and special purpose plans undertaken to address specific components of the Parks system. (3, 5, 6) See also Relation to Capital Improvement Planning and Other City Plans in Implementation.

~~See also Relation to Capital Improvement Planning and Other City Plans in Implementation~~

## **Policy PR 1.2**

### **Plan Currency**

Keep the ~~Raleigh~~ Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources System Plan and other special purpose park plans current through a regular schedule of updates and re-examinations, including five-year updates to the ~~Park~~System Plan. ~~(6)~~

## **Policy PR 1.3**

### **Coordinated Park Planning**

Work with interdepartmental and external partners to align siting, land acquisition, co-location, programming design, and construction opportunities with growth projections and demographic information. (3, 5)

## **Policy PR 1.4**

### **Community Involvement in Special Programs**

Where specific or special programs are desired, such as aquatics, skate parks, and off-leash dog areas, involve stakeholders across the entire City to achieve a broad and long range system- wide approach for capital development and replacement. ~~(6)~~

## **Policy PR 1.5**

### **Program and Facility Evaluations**

Evaluate programs and facilities through community and city-wide surveys, focus groups, evaluations, data regarding programmed and non-programmed usage, and demographic analysis in addition to participation at public meetings. (6)

## **Policy PR 1.6**

### **New Park Types and Acquisition Criteria**

Establish new urban park types and acquisition criteria to ensure that Growth Centers in the city have adequate access to a mix of parks and open space types to meet need

## **Policy PR 1.7**

## **New Parks in Growth Centers**

Create new urban parks and enhance existing urban parks throughout Growth Centers using proactive planning, partnerships and innovative approaches

### **Policy PR 1.8**

## **Integrate Parks and Transportation Options**

Utilize existing and future public transportation centers, greenway trails and pedestrian connections to provide access to parks, recreation and cultural opportunities throughout growth areas and city- wide.

### **Action PR 1.1**

#### **~~PRCR~~ System Plan Update**

Update and evaluate the 2014 Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources System Plan every five years to provide the ~~PRCR Department with current and more detailed guidelines~~ City with the most current and detailed information ~~necessary~~ available to respond to evolving community needs.

### **Action PR 1.2**

#### **~~Reserved~~**

#### **~~F~~ Greenway Plan Update**

Update and evaluate the implementation of the Capital Area Greenway Master Plan and the 2014 Capital Area Greenway Planning and Design Guide in order to promote the acquisition of land or easements for greenway corridors and the completion of the proposed trail system.

### **Action PR 1.3**

#### **Promote Parks as Economic Assets**

Continue to collaborate with the State of North Carolina and Wake County to promote regional recreation tourism and encourage economic development.

### **Action PR 1.4**

#### **Provide Regional Connectivity**

Provide access through public transit, greenway trail, and bicycle facilities connectivity to regional recreation hub(s).

## **8.2 Park System and Land Acquisition**

In order to provide parks, recreation ~~lands~~ and ~~facilities~~ cultural resources experiences, the City of Raleigh must acquire the rights to develop park property through fee simple ownership, easements

providing access, and/or partnerships with agencies or organizations that may share common green space goals, department philosophy, and strategies. In addition to acquiring land as the City continues to expand into unincorporated areas, the City must continue to evaluate property that is undeveloped, suitable for redevelopment, or worthy of maintaining as open space through a systematic evaluation utilizing the latest data and technologies available.

~~Areas of the City where parks are needed are identified as Search Areas in Map PR-2. The Level of Service (LOS) guidelines, established in the Parks Plan and the Aquatic Study, help predict the need for park land and aquatic facilities in particular areas throughout the City. Opportunities to acquire land outside the City of Raleigh's current jurisdiction should also be pursued to ensure adequate park and recreation facilities for the future. The LOS guidelines for Neighborhood and Community Parks are used to evaluate where existing park services are not available with reasonable access. Impedances or barriers to citizen access such as major roads and railroads as well as population projections and jurisdictional boundaries are used to determine broad areas to look for available park lands. Search areas guide real estate acquisition efforts and assist the City in evaluation of development proposals.~~

~~Table PR-1 is the result of evaluating citywide existing park lands versus the LOS guidelines to meet future population projections. It is intended to be a broad picture of future needs and is dynamic in that acquisitions and growth require the table and search areas to be updated on a regular basis.~~

~~•The LOS for Neighborhood Parks is 2.6 acres per 1,000 population. Neighborhood Parks are typically 5 to 25 acres in size and usually include at least basic elements such as playgrounds, a picnic area, and some open space. Additional elements such as tennis, multipurpose or ball fields or small neighborhood center buildings can be included if the site allows. The general service area of a Neighborhood Park is approximately one-half mile; this distance can vary depending on size of the park, population density, barriers to access, and availability of complementary recreation services. The service area is a planning tool for acquisition and development of parks and does not limit access or use of the facility.~~

~~•The LOS for Community Parks is 3.1 acres per 1,000 population. Community Parks are typically 30 to 75 acres and usually contain similar basic elements found in Neighborhood Parks. Most Community Parks should also contain facilities that provide opportunities for active recreation programs, both outdoors and indoors, such as a Community Center building. The general service area of a Community Park is approximately 2 miles; this distance can vary depending on size of the park, population density, barriers to access, and availability of complementary recreation services. The service area is a planning tool for acquisition and development of parks and does not limit access or use of the facility.~~

~~•Metro Parks with a regional or thematic focus have a LOS of 4.2 acres per 1,000 population. Metro Parks may include natural areas, athletic complexes, as well as parks centered on lakes and incorporating greenways and boat rental facilities.~~

~~•Nature Preserves are similar to Metro Parks and have a regional focus. They have been carefully evaluated using adopted criteria and are found to be worthy of protection due to their natural resource attributes. Because of their unique character Preserves do not have a LOS, but due to their regional~~

appeal their acreage is included in the summary of Metro Parks. Further description follows in the text box “Natural Areas”.

~~• Special Parks with a single or unique aspect, such as significant natural features or athletic or performance venues, do not have a LOS guideline. Acquisition and/or development of these parks depend on availability of land, funds and opportunities that may arise. Greenway Corridors, as depicted on Map PR-2, are defined by the corridors of the Neuse River, Walnut Creek and Crabtree Creek and have no LOS. Overland greenway connectors are also depicted where necessary to join with parks, schools, residential or commerce centers. Since the corridors are based on natural stream systems, the opportunity exists to connect to greenway lands and trails provided by other municipal and Wake County jurisdictions.~~ Historically, the City of Raleigh has acquired and planned parks and recreation facilities according to the National Recreation and Parks Association’s (NRPA) Level of Service (LOS) Standard. The purpose of this standard is to assure “equal opportunity to share in the basic menu of services implicit in the standard.” The City of Raleigh has used these measurements to meet the NRPA guidelines and State standards based on:

- *Acres per Population,*
- *Facilities per Population,*
- *Quality of the Facilities, and*
- *Availability of Programs.*

While these measurement techniques help ensure a commitment to park land and facilities as the city develops, they do have shortcomings. Equitable access to inherent experiences expected by citizens is not measured with these techniques.

Incorporating a fifth measurement technique— Access Distance or Travel Time—can help progress the simple idea that every citizen should be able to access an inherent park, recreation or cultural experience within similar walking, bicycling, and/or driving distance. The creation of an experience based model helps to better evaluate how parks, recreation, and cultural resource experiences offered by the City of Raleigh actually function as a dynamic system.

Several core neighborhood-based experiences have been identified based on public input during the System Plan planning process. It will be a priority to improve access to one of these core neighborhood-based experiences:

- *Sitting outside, reading, contemplating, socializing*
- *Going to a playground*
- *Informal open play*
- *Walking or riding a bike in a park or on a greenway trail*

In addition to these core neighborhood experiences, several area-wide experiences have been identified. Unlike the neighborhood-based experiences, which are evaluated using a single travel distance of one mile, area-wide experiences will use a range of differences based on the type of activity or amenity involved. This range may be from one to five miles. At-will activities encompass other recreational pursuits, which do not need to meet an exact schedule or be coordinated through a centralized process. Area- wide experiences include:

- At-will Activities:
- Playing on an athletic field or court
- Enjoying nature and the outdoors
- Aquatic recreation
- River and lake-related activities
- Fitness
- Enjoying cultural opportunities

Level of Service Criteria based on access to inherent park, recreation and cultural experiences (rather than per capita acreage standards based on park classification) will provide a more accurate and effective means of monitoring Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources system.

By using these evaluation tools together to build an experience-based system, the city can be more inclusive in determining needs, accommodating of changing lifestyles, innovative in identifying solutions, and responsive to balancing experiences based on context.

The experience-based network access analysis identifies a more valid service area than a traditional radius "neighborhood park service area boundary" based on park classification type and a static search radius.

The Experience-Based System model is the first step in the process of identifying parks and greenways that are poorly connected. Experienced Based System

The Experience-Based System model is the first step in the process of identifying parks and greenways that are poorly connected. The model uses distance or travel time standards based on development patterns, street networks, bicycle/ pedestrian networks, and demographics in the community to evaluate access to park experiences. The specific metrics used for the Experience- Based System evaluation include distance to closest park, parks per person within one mile, and acres per person within one mile. The evaluation also calls for the use of census block centroids, park access points, and the Wake County road network. This model first identifies all parks offering core experiences, which includes opportunities for socializing, going to a playground, informal open play, and walking or riding a bike in a park or on a greenway trail.

The Experienced-Based System model uses the following measures to evaluate accessibility to parks:

1. The distance to the closest park measures the distance from each Census Block centroid to the closest park access point. This distance is calculated using the Wake County road network and does not take into account sidewalks, trails, walking paths, greenways, or any other connection type.
2. The number of accessible parks per person within one mile is calculated by dividing each park by the total population of all of the surrounding Census Blocks within a distance of 1.29-miles to determine parks/person. Each Census Block receives the sum of the calculated number of parks/person for all parks within the 1.29-mile distance.
3. The number of accessible park acres per person within one mile is calculated by dividing the park's acreage by the total population of all Census Blocks within a distance of 1.29-miles to determine acres/ person. Each Census Block gets the sum of the acres/person values of all parks within a 1.29-mile distance.

Once these three metrics are calculated, they are combined for each census block. The census block values are then aggregated up to census block groups and those values are weighted by population. Map PR-2 demonstrates how this model is used to identify areas with low accessibility.

Using this analysis based on the existing Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources system in 2013, the street network distance for every block centroid to each park was 1.3 miles. A distance of 1.3 miles or less indicates an average to better- than-average accessibility level. The distance via the street network represents the current service area.

As a first step to improving access Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is currently developing a new Neighborhood and Community Connections Program and Policy to identify areas of the city where communities are close to a park but have low access. Using the existing experience-based model described in the 2014 System Plan, the N&CC Program compared current service to potential service levels to assess which parks had the greatest need for accessibility improvements. The comparison allowed the department to see where potential gaps in access fall, for example a resident may live ¼ of a mile from a park entrance, but if they used the street network, they would travel two miles to reach the park.

### Policy PR 2.1

~~Greenway Corridors are the basis for the City of Raleigh's mandatory dedication of easement on residential properties or reservation of commercial properties.~~

~~•Contemporary aquatic planning standards no longer rely on general calculations of pool or pool area-per resident as a tool in assessing need. Rather, individual needs are evaluated and measured with user-specific aquatic design elements in mind. Such an evaluation is provided in Raleigh's 2008 Aquatic Study.~~

Some variations in size and elements are expected and this presents opportunities to vary the facilities offered across the City's park system.

### **Natural Areas**

Natural areas in Raleigh's park system take into account not only the three distinct designations defined below, but also consider the spectrum of natural resource conservation from watershed management at the regional level to landscapes and stream buffers at the individual park site level. These areas can be entire park units (Nature Preserves), included within the boundaries of other park units (Protected Natural Areas) or a more linear park feature typically associated with a stream or river system (Greenway Corridors). The criteria for Nature Preserves and Protected Natural Areas include the presence of significant species or habitats, size, proximity to other conservation lands, and special considerations such as partnerships and deed constraints. Nature Preserves and Protected Natural Areas should have a site-specific management plan which takes into account the opportunity for public use.

- Nature Preserves are entire park units that contain examples of high quality plant or animal populations, natural communities, landscapes or ecosystems, documented by subject matter experts through local or state programs that contribute to biodiversity and environmental health. The size of a Nature Preserve should be sufficient to buffer, conserve and protect the target element or area. Efforts should be made to protect and manage significant natural resources in these areas through stewardship and best-practice management that do not degrade the resources present. Opportunities for the public enjoyment of natural resource based recreation and environmental education may be provided that are compatible with the protection and enhancement of the Nature Preserve and the nature experience.
- Protected Natural Areas are portions of park units that contain examples of high quality plant or animal populations, natural communities, landscapes or ecosystems, documented by subject matter experts through local or state programs that contribute to biodiversity and environmental health. In the case of existing parks, Protected Natural Areas should be identified as part of an inventory process based on the natural resources, buffers, educational opportunities, and consistency with adopted master plans. Efforts should be made to protect and manage significant natural resources in these areas through stewardship and best-practice management that do not degrade the resources present. The designation of a Protected Natural Area should be differentiated from areas reserved for future development.
- Greenway Corridors are a land use described in more detail in F.3 'Greenway System Land and Trails' and are typically outlined specifically by river, stream, and tributary designations in the Park Plan. Widths of the corridors are recommended to be sufficient to protect the floodplain, consistent with Element C: 'Environmental Protection'.

### **Policy PR-2.1**

#### **System Integration Plan**

Undeveloped parks should be the subject of a System Integration Plan that ~~verifies the park's classification in the overall park system,~~ identifies features of special interest on the site, and suggests interim management strategies until the new site can be part of a master plan effort. (3, 5))

## **Policy PR 2.2**

### **Level of Service Achievement**

Continue to refine the experience-based Level of Service (LOS) analysis in order to identify areas of need within the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources system. Conduct further analyses to determine if needs can be fulfilled through reinvestment in the existing system, through partnerships, or through land acquisition. (1, 3, 5)

## **Policy PR 2.3**

### **Park Accessibility**

Seek to provide reasonable access to a public park or recreational open space to all city residents by 2030, by using the Level of Service and ~~service area~~Experience Based System guidelines provided in this Plan. (5, 6)

## **~~Policy PR 2.3~~**

### **~~Level of Service Achievement~~**

~~Continue to actively acquire land to meet the appropriate Level of Service (LOS) for additional Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Metro Parks, and aquatic facilities. (1, 3, 5)~~

## **Policy PR 2.4**

### **Acquisition Methodology**

Pursue a pattern of acquisition consistent with a search area methodology that analyzes current and projected population and demographic data. (3, 6)

## **Policy PR 2.5**

### **Acquisition Opportunities**

Pursue land acquisition when opportunities arise if the site is suitable for meeting the mission of the Parks ~~and~~ Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. ~~This is especially pertinent for parks with special environmental or cultural significance or thematic metro parks.~~ (3, 5, 6)

## **Policy PR 2.6**

### **Acquisition Grants and Partnerships**

Seek grants and partnerships with agencies, communities, and/or organizations for land acquisition to maximize the public benefit. (3, 5, 6)

#### **Policy PR 2.7**

##### **Acquisition Coordination**

Coordinate park land needs assessments, current land acquisition costs, and the ~~City's~~City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in order to ensure adequate funding is on hand to react to opportunities and market patterns. (3, 5, 6)

#### **Policy PR 2.8**

##### **Creating Recreational ~~Facilities Through~~Experiences through Adaptive Reuse**

Consideration should be given to opportunities for providing ~~Neighborhood~~parks, recreation and ~~Community Park elements~~cultural resource experiences through innovative and adaptive reuse of underutilized or vacant properties. (3, 5, 6)

#### **Policy PR 2.9**

##### **Plan for Bus and Bicycle Accessibility**

Make transit and bike access a factor in selecting park sites.

#### **Policy PR 2.10**

##### **Plan for Proximity**

Provide new parks or joint-use facilities so that every resident has access to a core neighborhood- based park experience within one-mile travel distance of their home or place of employment.

#### **Action PR 2.1**

##### **Innovative Strategies for Acquisition**

Explore innovative strategies such as donations by developers and philanthropists, inter-agency\_ transfer, park improvement districts, partnerships with other government and non-government agencies and tax-defaulted properties to acquire parkland and open space. If acquired properties are not well suited for public recreation use and are not of significant environmental or ecological value, revenue from disposition should revert to the Parks~~and~~, Recreation and Cultural Resources acquisition program.

#### **Action PR 2.2**

##### **Grant Requests and Partnerships**

Submit grant requests and pursue partnerships for land acquisition, especially to agencies that share missions with City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department. Reasonable economic justification and equity of access should be strong considerations in these actions.

### **Action PR 2.3**

#### **Search Area Methodologies**

Continue to refine and update search area methodologies to include census data, forecasts, trends, and technology. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Action PR 2.4**

#### **Facility Fee for Acquiring and Developing New Parks**

Monitor the effectiveness of the City Facility Fee Program and propose updates if appropriate.

### **Action PR 2.5**

#### **Reserved**

#### **Zoning Incentives for Recreation**

Explore zoning incentives for developers and land owners to increase recreational amenities and tie-ins to municipal recreational projects on their property or as part of new

### **8.3 Greenway System Land and ~~Trail~~ Trails**

The City of Raleigh is blessed with a Raleigh's Capital Area Greenway program that has preserved over 3,760 (CAG) System began as a 1970s planning effort to effectively manage floodways. Today, Raleigh boasts one of the most extensive greenway systems in the United States, with current greenway open space holdings totaling nearly 4,000 acres along stream. More than 117 miles of greenway trails have been built to date, and an additional 120 miles are proposed (Map PR-3).

The backbone of the CAG system are the riparian corridors—lands adjacent to the waterways and tributaries of Walnut Creek, Crabtree Creek, and the Neuse River. These lands are primarily in the floodplain, and as such are managed for conservation of the natural resources found there. These protected lands also—which protect aquatic habitat, provide the opportunity for a nationally known greenway trail system of over 68 miles wildlife corridors, prevent development of ecologically sensitive lands, and mitigate potential flood damage. Where feasible and appropriate, these greenway corridors are developed into publicly accessible greenway trails, providing a network of linear parks throughout the city that provide transit options and recreational opportunities for residents as well as visitors. Pedestrian and bicycle access to these areas offers a unique opportunity to experience nature in the midst of a city of over 400,000 people. The goals of the Capital Area Greenway program are:

• ~~Greenway~~ Greenway trails within the CAG System range in function and character based on a variety of factors, and are organized according to a hierarchy of classifications (Map PR-4):

- Cross-City Greenway Trails are main routes crossing the city or connecting to adjacent jurisdictions,
- Greenway Collector Trails connect to larger residential, employment, and retail centers while maintaining mobility for high volumes of users;
- Loop Trails are destination-oriented trails typically located around lakes;
- Neighborhood Greenway Trails are lower volume trails that provide access to neighborhoods, parks, retail centers, or employment centers; and
- Greenway Connectors, which may utilize sidewalks and public rights of way, link trails between corridors.

The goals of the Capital Area Greenway program are to:

- Preserve natural characteristics of the land;
- ~~Preserve~~ Preserve wildlife corridors;
- ~~Preserve~~ Preserve riparian buffers as a means of protecting water quality;
- ~~Preserve~~ Preserve stream corridors to manage ~~stormwater~~ storm water runoff;
- ~~Provide~~ Provide buffers for multiple land uses;
- ~~Provide~~ Provide opportunities for passive recreation; and
- ~~Provide~~ Provide ~~multi-use~~ trails for recreation and safe transportation routes.

#### Policy PR 3.1

##### Capital Area Greenway ~~Trail Expansion~~ System

Continue to expand ~~Raleigh's~~ Raleigh's greenway trail network ~~by providing minimum ten-foot wide multi-use paths that follow~~ according to the guidelines established in the Capital Area Greenway Master Plan and the Capital Area Greenway Planning and Design Guide, in order to protect greenway corridors and connect ~~other greenways~~ greenway trails, parks, ~~and~~ schools, and ~~that also provide other destinations with~~ safe integration into on-road facilities. (4, 5, 6)

#### Policy PR 3.2

##### Greenway ~~Awareness~~ Corridors

~~Increase public awareness of and facilitate access to links provided by the Capital Area Greenway to nearby communities. (6)~~

Support initiatives that work to create a protected, linked network of linear natural areas, wildlife habitats and greenspaces throughout the region.

#### Policy PR 3.3

##### **~~Riparian Greenways~~**

##### Resilience and Green Infrastructure Network

Acquire ~~parkland~~ and maintain greenways along important riparian corridors ~~including the Neuse River and Crabtree and Walnut creeks to create green "fingers" that provide natural and recreational amenities~~ as identified in the Capital Area Greenway Planning and Design Guide in order to preserve the natural character of watercourses, promote water quality, and increase flood protection. (3, 5)

#### Policy PR 3.4 Greenway Transportation

##### **~~Neuse River Access~~**

~~Pursue opportunities to provide recreational access to the Neuse River, including both trail and paddling access. (5, 6)~~

Network Position and promote the Capital Area Greenway system trails as safe, healthy and sustainable travel alternatives.

#### Policy PR 3.5 Multi-modal Integration

##### **~~Stream Open Space Networks~~**

~~Provide a continuous system of open spaces along designated stream corridors that link neighborhoods and park lands and, where possible, provide links to employment centers, schools, shopping areas, and transit rider facilities. (4, 5, 6)~~

#### Policy PR 3.6

##### **~~Greenway Connectivity~~**

~~Expand the greenway system by connecting existing routes. Provide additional connections between the greenway trails and destinations throughout the City using designated upland routes where necessary. (4, 5)~~

#### **~~Policy PR 3.7~~**

##### **~~Flood Plain and Upland Protection~~**

~~Protect floodplain property or upland connections for greenways or public open space through the site development process of residential and non-residential sites. (1, 5)~~

~~See also C.4 'Flood Reduction and Preparedness' in Element C: 'Environmental Protection'.~~

### **~~Policy PR 3.8~~**

#### **~~Pedestrian Links to Greenways~~**

Improve pedestrian and bicycle linkages ~~to existing and proposed greenway corridors. Development adjacent to a greenway trail should link their internal pedestrian~~ by closing gaps in network to the greenway trail where appropriate. (4, 5, 6) connectivity and prioritizing connections to public transportation, streets, sidewalks, and other transportation corridors.

### Policy PR 3.6**~~Policy PR 3.9~~**

#### **~~Infrastructure Projects and Greenways~~**

~~Involve the City's greenway planning staff in the planning and design of all infrastructure projects that impact a corridor identified in the Capital Area Greenway Master Plan. (4, 5, 6)~~

### **~~Action PR 3.1~~**

#### **~~Capital Area Greenway~~**

~~Implement the completion of~~

#### Regional Network

Complete the Capital Area Greenway system with connections to surrounding greenway corridors that are elements of a regional network.

### Policy PR 3.7 Public Awareness and Stewardship

Educate citizens about the benefits of supporting stewardship efforts of greenway corridors.

### Policy PR 3.8 Signage and Wayfinding

Provide a sense of identity and utility for the greenway trail network through a program of consistent, selective, and strategic signage so as not to clutter or dominate the visual character of the greenway trails.

### Policy PR 3.9 Development Adjacent to Greenways

Development adjacent to a designated greenway should provide links between internal pedestrian networks and greenway trails, where appropriate. The development should proactively respond to greenways as an amenity, incorporating and maintaining greenway viewsheds and aesthetic character, as well as storm water management and flood control benefits.

### Action PR 3.1

#### Capital Area Greenway System

Prioritize an implementation schedule to complete the full system of greenway trails, including proposed greenway connectors, with a focus on inter-connectivity among neighborhoods, parks, schools, commercial areas, cultural and civil institutions, and other regional destinations.

#### **Action PR 3.2**

##### **Greenway Corridors**~~Neuse River Land Acquisition~~

~~Pursue the acquisition of environmentally sensitive and significant property along the Neuse River corridor to protect important natural resources and regional open space.~~

#### ~~Action PR 3.3~~

##### ~~Reserved~~

Acquire and maintain easements along all designated greenway corridors. Require greenway dedication whenever a tract of land within a proposed residential subdivision or site plan includes any part of a designated greenway, and pursue dedication or reservation of greenway land from non-residential development.

#### **Action PR 3.4**

##### ~~Stream Buffer Acquisition~~

##### **Resilience and Green Infrastructure Network**

Develop a program to accelerate greenway acquisition ~~to incorporate at least~~ of contiguous land and quality natural resource areas along the full width of the 100-year flood plain or a 100-foot wide vegetative buffers or the entire 100-year floodplain buffer, whichever is greater, ~~along designated streams~~ through additional funding and/or regulations.

See also C.4 'Flood Reduction and Preparedness' in Element C: 'Environmental Protection'.

#### **Action PR 3.4**

##### **Greenway Connection Improvements**

Increase public awareness of and facilitate access to the Capital Area Greenway network by providing links to nearby communities and destination centers

#### **Action PR 3.5**

##### **Multi-modal Integration**

Provide multi-modal access to trailhead locations, as well as adequate parking where feasible.

### **Action PR 3.6**

#### **Regional Network**

Coordinate with adjacent municipalities and other entities in order to identify potential cross-jurisdictional connections. Examine potential

partnerships and funding opportunities to implement regional trail connections including the Mountains- to-Sea Trail and East Coast Greenway

### **Action PR 3.7**

#### **Public Awareness and Stewardship**

Promote the Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Adopt-A-Trail program to individuals, businesses, and groups interested in supporting the Capital Area Greenway System. (<http://openmaps.raleighnc.gov/adoptatrail/index.html>)

### **Action PR 3.8**

#### **Signage and Wayfinding**

Implement the Raleigh Greenways Master Sign Program throughout the system and improve to include wayfinding with comprehensive directions to and from the Capital Area Greenway system, nearby destination information, orientation indicators, educational and interpretive information, and route options within the system

### **Action PR 3.9**

#### **Development Adjacent to Greenways**

Implement the Capital Area Greenway Master Plan and engage greenway planning staff during rezoning and site development for residential and non-residential sites. Involve the City's greenway planning staff in the planning and design of all infrastructure projects that impact a corridor or proposed trail as identified in the Capital Area Greenway Planning and Design Guide.

### **Action PR 3.10**

#### **Implement Safety Education Program**

Develop and implement a trail user safety and etiquette education program.

### **Action PR 3.11**

#### **Implement Maintenance Standards**

Enhance and implement maintenance standards for existing greenway trails to ensure safe and comfortable travel by users.

## 8.4 Recreational Facilities and Programs

In order to maintain itself as a center of wise growth and prosperity, the City of Raleigh must continue to provide a balance of ~~opportunities for citizens to choose both active and passive living pursuits in their daily lives.~~ Facilities for their well-being and physical health include trails, tracks, playgrounds and play fields, as well as a variety of courts, gymnasiums, and activity spaces. The indoor and outdoor facilities that support the programs and informal non-programmed uses available to Raleigh residents and visitors ~~must be available in sufficient quantity, quality, size, design, and geographic distribution to allow full participation for people of all ages and the opportunity for growth. Providing these facilities through a~~ experiences for citizens. Planning for these experiences through a site-specific master plan process should take into account a system-wide approach as well as consideration for individual neighborhoods, adjoining public facilities, and future opportunities. The ~~City's~~City's parks ~~and,~~ recreation and cultural resources facilities support a broad range of skills and experiences, and exposure to opportunities and programs in aquatics, arts, athletics, history, museums, nature ~~study,~~ summer and track-out camps, and tennis. Programs serve all ages from youth to senior adults, and special populations. Amusement areas and several lakes also offer contact with nature and relief from the stress of everyday life for all generations. ~~To meet these needs, both sufficient indoor buildings and outdoor shelters, open spaces, and high-quality natural areas are required. Planning~~ Facilities include trails, tracks, playgrounds and play fields, as well as a variety of courts, gymnasiums, and activity spaces. To adapt and continue to meet the needs of the community, planning for flexible facilities with opportunities for future expansion is of utmost importance in accommodating future growth.

~~Raleigh's~~Raleigh's Parks ~~and~~ Recreation and Cultural Resources Mission Statement:

~~The mission of the Parks, Recreation, and Greenway program of the City of Raleigh is to actively encourage, provide, promote and protect quality leisure, recreation, and cultural opportunities, facilities, and environments that are essential for the enhancement of the lives of our citizens.~~

Together we connect and enrich our community through exceptional experiences

### **Policy PR 4.1**

#### **Flexible ~~Park~~ Facilities**

Continue to plan, develop, and operate a variety of flexible indoor and outdoor facilities to support programs, and multiple activities, ~~and active and passive lifestyle pursuits~~ across the entire City with respect to sufficient quality, quantity, size, and geographic distribution, and to reserve space for future trends and services. (3, 6)

### **Policy PR 4.2**

#### **Sustainable ~~Park~~ Design**

Incorporate sustainable design in the development and management of ~~park sites~~parks, recreation and ~~recreational~~cultural resource facilities. (3, 5, 6)

### **Policy PR 4.3**

#### **~~Recreational Facility Adequacy~~**

#### **Partnerships and collaboration**

Collaborate with partners in the public and private sectors to develop innovative park arrangements and spaces that help provide a diversity of needed recreational facilities. (3, 6)

### **Policy PR 4.4**

#### **~~Park Visibility~~**

#### **Enhanced access and awareness**

Enhance access to and awareness of ~~Raleigh's~~Raleigh's recreational opportunities by locating and developing some active recreational facilities along major streets near other commercial development and in highly visible areas. (5, 6)

### **Policy PR 4.5**

#### **~~Child-Friendly Parks~~**

~~Provide child-friendly parks and open spaces across the City, including downtown. (6)~~

#### **User Fees and Charges**

Conduct a study to review and evaluate user fees and charges.

### **Policy PR 4.6**

#### **Universal Access**

Develop recreational facilities that are universally accessible to all residents. Update existing facilities when new construction is planned, or when renovations are undertaken to, be compliant with new City and federal regulations as they come into effect. (6)

### **Policy PR 4.7**

#### **Joint Use of Schools**

Seek and work collaboratively, when feasible, with other municipal, county, and state entities on the joint use of school properties for public recreation. (3)

### **Policy PR 4.8**

#### **Private Parks**

Encourage the provision of tot lots, pocket parks, and other privately-held and -maintained park spaces within residential developments to complement public park facilities. (6)

#### **Policy PR 4.9**

##### **Adequate Indoor Facilities**

Seek to provide adequate indoor and all- weather facilities for a wide variety of active living choices for all generations. (6)

#### ~~Policy PR 4.10~~

##### ~~Indoor Facility Construction~~

~~When in keeping with a System Integration Plan **Action PR 4.1** and/or adopted Master Plan, Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, or Special Parks should be considered for the construction of indoor facilities for recreation, community meetings, social activities, and/or special uses such as arts, aquatics, or environmental education. (6)~~

#### **User Fees and Charges**

Develop a revenue policy, cost recovery criteria, and cost of service templates for use in determining pricing for program and user fees

#### ~~Action PR 4.1~~

##### ~~Reserved~~

#### **Action PR 4.2**

##### **Sustainable Practice Development**

Use nationally accepted sustainable design principles and best management practices in park design.

#### **Action PR 4.3**

##### ~~Reserved~~

#### ~~Action PR 4.4~~

##### **Creating Opportunities for Active Living Choices**

~~Acquire and develop~~ Develop new and renovate existing facilities, multi-use fields, trails, and courts as often as practical to support formal and informal opportunities for active living choices by all generations.

#### ~~Action PR 4.5~~

**Reserved**

#### **Action-PR 4.6**

##### **Comprehensive Aquatics Plan**

~~Implement the City Council-adopted Comprehensive Aquatics Plan by phasing in an equitable geographic distribution of improvements over time. Re-evaluate the plan in 2018.~~

#### **Action-PR 4.7**

##### **Senior Center Feasibility Study**

~~Implement the Senior Center Feasibility Study and review the potential for additional centers in the future, including satellite centers.~~

### **F 8.5 Open Space and Special Landscapes**

~~Park lands and open spaces provide the~~The City of Raleigh will continue to experience incredible rates of growth and urbanization between now and 2030. As the City continues to mature, its character will be defined by how it manages these trends. A larger population, shifting land-use patterns and the pressures of development will bring new opportunities and challenges to the management of open spaces and special landscapes. In order for Raleigh to stay true to its essential character and retain the qualities that make it one of the most livable cities in America, it must find a balance between urban development and the protection of open spaces.

Open spaces provide opportunities for organized programs, informal or unprogrammed activities, and the conservation of special ~~spaces~~landscapes for the long-term benefit of the public. A variety of public open spaces contributes to the health and well-being of citizens and visitors, the conservation of wildlife and wild land, and the mitigation of environmental impacts from development. ~~These spaces may include transportation rights-of-way and entrance gateways, stream corridors, public areas of downtown, and a variety of park lands specifically managed to provide flexible and diverse opportunities. Policies should remain flexible to balance the need for investment in spaces with the need for long-term flexibility.~~The City of Raleigh will enact policies that recognize open space as a complement—not a competition—to growth and development, and will take action to protect natural areas and special landscapes that enhance quality of life for all citizens.

~~The City is in the midst of major developments in the downtown area. This places special pressure on public urban spaces, especially historic Moore Square and Nash Square parks. It also creates opportunities for innovative landscapes currently unavailable in Raleigh, such as rooftop plazas and gardens.~~

Every citizen of Raleigh should be able to experience the benefits of public open space and special landscapes. These spaces must be integrated within new and existing development, thereby promoting public access and awareness of these resources. This integrated approach will require the City to

develop and implement new and innovative policies to proactively encourage the provision of open space within both public and private development projects.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize that citizens of Raleigh benefit immensely from parks and open spaces that are protected and managed by Wake County, the State of North Carolina, various land trusts and other nonprofit organizations operating within the City of Raleigh.

An integrated approach to open space planning will require partnerships and coordination with each of these entities.

In addition to providing everyday access to open spaces, the City must protect and promote the unique and special landscapes that exist within Raleigh. Nature Preserves and Natural Areas (Anderson Point Park; Annie Louise Wilkerson, MD Nature Preserve Park; Durant Nature Preserve; Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve; Lake Johnson; and Walnut Creek Wetland Center) are important components of the parks system that contain examples of high quality plant or animal populations, natural communities, landscapes or ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity and environmental health. The parks system also includes four lakes (Lake Johnson, Lake Wheeler, Lake Lynn and Shelley Lake) that provide access to unique outdoor recreation experiences while enhancing the region's water quality and stormwater management. The Capital Area Greenway System protects thousands of acres of riparian land while providing Raleigh's citizens and visitors with access to over 117 miles of trails, rivers and streams. Continuing to protect and expand upon these special landscapes and natural resources will be an important aspect of Raleigh's future open space planning.

A city's vitality depends on the network of public open spaces and natural areas that provide respite to its residents and soften the impact of human activities on the natural environment. Protecting and planning for these spaces will ensure that Raleigh remains a place that people will love to live for generations to come.

*See also ~~C.2 'Design with Nature'~~ in Element C: 'Environmental Protection' for additional policies related to the preservation and use of open spaces and landscapes.*

## **Policy PR 5.1**

### **Protecting Heritage Sites\_\_\_\_\_**

In addition to acquiring land suitable for park facility development, work with local land trusts to acquire and conserve sites with significant natural heritage that are currently unprotected from development (as defined by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program). (5)

## **Policy PR 5.2**

### **Unique or Endangered Public Landscapes**

Ensure that park planning, facilities, and management respect and conserve resources and landscapes such as Significant Natural Heritage Areas and N.C. Wildlife Action Plan priority habitat areas. (5)

### Policy PR 5.3

#### Interpretive Conservation Activities

Maximize ecosystem conservation and promote interpretive and educational activities in unique ecological areas and habitats in partnership with other governmental and non-governmental agencies. (5)

*See also C.9 ~~'Environmental'~~ 'Environmental' Education, Awareness and Coordination' in Element C: 'Environmental Protection'.*

### Policy PR 5.4

#### Improving Park Access

Public spaces should be included in private developments that can connect to and benefit from their proximity to public infrastructure and spaces such as greenway trails, public sidewalks, and plazas. (3, 5, 6)

### Policy PR 5.5

#### ~~Requirements for Accessible~~ Encourage Public Open Space in ~~Partnership Projects~~ Rezonings

~~Ensure public access to open space in projects with public financial partnerships, such as downtown parking garages, plazas, and squares.~~

Encourage the provision of publicly accessible open space during the consideration of zoning petitions.

### Action PR 5.1

#### Mandatory Greenway Dedication

Continue the program of mandatory greenway land dedication from residential development to further the goals of the Capital Area Greenway program, and explore expanding it to non-residential development.

### Action PR 5.2

#### ~~Reserved~~

#### Inventory Private Park Facilities

Inventory/map private park facilities, amenities, and accessible open space.

### Action PR 5.3

#### ~~Streetscape, Gateway, and Public Space Improvements~~

~~Continue to pursue development of, and maintain a link to, the City's Capital Improvement Program and annual budget process for streetscape, gateway, and other special projects that improve neighborhoods, transportation corridors, and other public spaces.~~

~~See also 1.3 'Appearance and Function of Raleigh's Corridors' in Element I: 'Urban Design'.~~

#### **Action PR 5.4**

##### **Identifying Conservation Lands**

Identify lands that can be conserved and managed for their outstanding natural features, landscapes and assets, and cultural heritage values as part of a system of open spaces and green infrastructure.

#### **Action PR 5.4**

##### **Amend UDO to Promote Open Space**

Amend UDO Section 1.5.3 to allow for the provision of publicly accessible open space to meet the UDO outdoor amenity area requirements. Amend UDO Section 2.5.2 to include 'Areas that connect to neighboring open space, trails, or greenways' as Primary rather than Tertiary Open Space Allocation options for Compact and Conservation Residential Districts.

#### **Action PR 5.5**

##### **Facility Fees for Park Projects**

Explore the use of Facility Fees to fund park development projects through public-private partnership with developers at the time of (construction/subdivision/building permit issuance) for publicly accessible projects that will directly benefit new construction.

#### **Action PR 5.6**

##### **Cost Sharing for Greenway Connections**

Actively explore cost-share opportunities for the creation of new access points or connections between greenway easements and new development at the time of construction.

#### **8.6 Dorothea Dix Park**

On July 24, 2015, the City of Raleigh and the State of North Carolina agreed to the City's acquisition of the Dorothea Dix Campus, to plan and transform the former hospital property into a new destination park.

Dix Park is a total of 307.9 acres—143 acres to the west of the railroad and 164 acres to the east. The historic character of the eastern parcel, which includes the Dix Hill National Register Historic District, makes it very distinct from the park-like setting of the western parcel. There are 85 structures on the

campus totaling 1.2 million square feet of building space. The site has many unique features including a historic cemetery, chapel, and 65-acre landfill. The Rocky Branch Greenway Trail runs along the creek on the northern edge of the site. The study area for this project will not only include the 307.9 acres but will also need to consider how the park connects to and impacts the greater area. Rosengarten Greenway Trail, currently in the design phase, will connect Dix Park to the future Union Station through the Historic Boylan Heights neighborhood.

Dix Park is a site that blends historic architecture and rich landscapes into a unique destination in the heart of the Capital City. Dix Park offers skyline views, old growth oaks and rolling fields all in a bucolic, campus-like setting. From a plantation to a mental health hospital to the headquarters of a state agency, this property has evolved through centuries. This site also marks the spot where a common purpose was shared—the treatment and healing of North Carolina’s mentally ill. Understanding the rich history and legacy of the land is essential to the creation of an authentic vision for its future.

Purchase of the Dorothea Dix Campus provides an extraordinary opportunity to create a transformational public park that will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Raleigh, existing adjacent and future neighborhoods, the Triangle region, and the State.

The most successful destination parks across the United States include some form of public-private partnership and the City of Raleigh supports the value and importance of having these partners as an integral part of the planning and development of Dorothea Dix Park. The City of Raleigh is collaborating with the Dix Park Conservancy for the fundraising and development of a master plan for Dorothea Dix Park.

The Dorothea Dix Park planning process will be unique, progressive, and ambitious so that the final master plan is visionary and iconic for the future of Dorothea Dix Park and the City of Raleigh. The planning process will provide opportunities for the community to discover the park’s history, beauty and potential. It will be inclusive, transparent, and provide broad equitable opportunities for public participation.

The planning process will be governed by a three-tiered structure led by the Master Plan Executive Committee, which represents the partnership between the City of Raleigh and the Dix Park Conservancy. A 45-member Advisory Committee will advise the consultant team, make recommendations to the Executive Committee, be heavily involved in public outreach and engagement and serve as project advocates. Members of the Advisory Committee will also lead subcommittee workgroups which will be open to the public. Workgroups will enrich the planning process by providing topic-specific expertise and be involved in public outreach and engagement.

## **Policy PR 6.1**

### **Contextual Development**

Complement the ongoing growth and development of the Centennial and Main Campuses of North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's State Farmer's Market, and other regional institutions.

#### **Policy PR 6.2**

##### **Integration into Park System**

Integrate into and build upon the City's regional park and greenway system, and be mutually supportive of other city parks and cultural institutions.

#### **Policy PR 6.3**

##### **Design for Sustainability**

Incorporate at a most fundamental level the notions of sustainability and the relationship between the health of the human spirit and landscape.

#### **Policy PR 6.4**

##### **Exemplary Planning and Design**

Exhibit the highest level of planning principles and design innovation.

#### **Policy PR 6.5**

##### **Public Engagement**

Demonstrate that sustained, broad and inclusive public engagement is essential to the long-term development, support and use of the park.

#### **Policy PR 6.6**

##### **Placemaking**

Create a remarkable civic space that welcomes all that will embrace its history and legacy, showcase its beautiful and inspiring landscape and become a destination, a landmark, and an icon for the City.

#### **Action PR 6.1**

##### **Collaborative Master Planning**

Create and implement a collaborative and comprehensive process for developing a Dorothea Dix Park Master Plan.

#### **Action PR 6.2**

##### **Public Participation in Programming**

## Engage the public in park programming

### **8.7 Management and Stewardship**

As a steward of public land, recreational facilities, and cultural and natural resources, the City must manage with a goal of efficiency, equitable quality and access, and long term public benefit. Management and stewardship of parklands and facilities includes maintenance of existing developed parks as well as proper stewardship and management of undeveloped parklands and natural areas, and cultural resources. This requires a commitment from City employees, the public and their elected representatives to plan for the operating funds necessary to maintain sites, structures, and systems for their expected life cycle. Additionally, new capital development, renovation of existing facilities, and replacement of facilities when life-cycles are over should be planned and fully funded.

Promoting citizen involvement in stewardship and volunteer activities such as clean-ups, minor construction, and landscaping will continue to build community knowledge and support of the parks and greenway system. Numerous partner organizations and agencies exist in the area that can further the mission of the City of Raleigh Parks ~~and~~, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

#### **Policy PR ~~6~~7.1**

##### **Budget Adequacy**

Ensure that capital and operating budget support of the ~~park~~parks, recreation and cultural resources system keeps pace with growth as envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan to provide the quantity and quality of programs, facilities, and facilities maintenance expected by citizens. (1, 3)

#### **Policy PR ~~6~~7.2**

##### **Volunteerism**

Encourage citizens to volunteer within the ~~parks~~Parks, Recreation and ~~recreation~~Cultural Resources system by offering opportunities to be involved in recreational and resource programming, youth athletic coaching, park clean-up efforts, habitat restoration, special event support, and other supportive activities. (5, 6)

#### **Policy PR ~~6~~7.3**

##### **Park Stewardship**

Strive to improve safety, awareness, cleanliness, and neighborhood support at existing parks in part by involving residents in these efforts, partnering with other City Departments such as Planning, Public Works, Police, ~~Community Development~~Housing and Neighborhoods, and other partner agencies and ~~Park Watch~~ programs that may have a presence on the site. (6)

#### **Policy PR ~~6~~7.4**

##### **Access to Natural Resources**

~~Evaluate~~Promote the public awareness and knowledge of access to natural resource areas within the Raleigh regional park system ~~and neighboring communities.~~ (5, 6)

#### **Action PR ~~6~~7.1**

##### **Innovative Maintenance Strategies**

~~Continue to engage the City of Oaks Foundation and expand the reach of the volunteer and Adopt-A-Park program.~~

Implement and support innovative methods and initiatives such as park conservancies, Friends of the Parks groups, and trust funds to help supplement funding and encourage stewardship of public parks.

#### **Action PR ~~6~~7.2**

##### **Adopt-A-Park/Adopt-A-Trail**

Expand the Adopt-A-Park and Adopt-A-Trail programs to encourage individual citizens, neighborhoods, organized groups, partner agencies, and non-profits to participate in the establishment and maintenance of facilities and delivery of programs.

#### **Action PR ~~6~~7.3**

##### **System Integration Plan Implementation**

Implement System Integration Plans for all newly-acquired properties and for undeveloped park sites and key areas of underdeveloped sites.

#### **Action PR ~~6~~7.4**

##### **~~Historic Cemeteries~~**

~~Implement the *Strategic Plan for the Inventory and Conservation of Raleigh's Historic Cemeteries* and evaluate the plan in 2019.~~

#### **~~Action PR 6.5~~**

##### **Awareness of Natural Resource Areas**

Implement strategies through traditional methods and emerging technologies to increase public awareness of natural resource areas within the Raleigh Park ~~park~~ system and adjoining communities.

#### **~~Action PR 6.6~~**

##### **~~Stewardship Capacity~~**

~~Provide an assessment of resources necessary to provide for the appropriate level of management and stewardship of the City's growing inventory of parks and open spaces. Incorporate this assessment into the budget process.~~